

anti-slavery sentiment of our churches, is simply stating an obvious fact, without deciding on the ~~correct~~ <sup>right</sup>ness of their course.

We want a paper to propagate anti-slavery sentiments & intelligence among our churches in connection with the religious intelligence which they must have; - one which shall oppose the present existence of slavery, as well as "slavery in the abstract;" direct the force of the anti-slavery sentiment of our church against the evil itself, rather than against the minor errors of abolitionists; invite, rather than repel the co-operation of true abolitionists in the cause of the slave, whatever may be their difference of religious views; & not embalm & perpetuate their religious errors, by giving them unnecessary notoriety, or by enlisting anti-slavery sympathy on their side against the appearance of persecution.

We want an anti-slavery religious paper, likewise, conducted with a degree of talent & erudition which shall command universal respect, compete successfully with any other paper, give an anti-slavery tone to the whole religious press of New England, & thus propagate its spirit & sentiments through other vehicles besides its own. A paper of this elevated character I should confidently expect under the editorial change of the one contemplated; & you may consider me pledged to give it my cordial support.



Bracutt April 7<sup>th</sup> 1838

My dear brother Phelps



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As compliance with your invitation to meet with you on Tuesday, was prevented by the unexpected arrival of friends from a distance, as I was on the point of starting for Boston. This is at least the third time that my purpose of meeting with you on the great, absorbing theme has been <sup>hypocritically</sup> defeated.

Your project is the very thing which I have thought desirable, though ignorant of the fact that it was in contemplation. The anti-slavery members of our orthodox congregational churches—who are by no means “fine & far between”—ought to have at least one religious paper in New England, & in the ~~the~~ metropolis of New England, which shall be the true organ of their ~~sent~~ religious & anti-slavery sentiments. So large, respectable, & energetic a portion of our churches cannot & will not long be deprived of a paper which shall speak distinctly their real sentiments on both subjects. To say that the ground which the Recorder & N.E. Spectator have respectively taken does not meet the demand of the